

BA-83

1300835404

Buffalo Run  
Entrance: Belfast Road near  
Wheeler Lane  
Not Accessible  
1840-1860

Located at the end of a long driveway north of Belfast Road near Wheeler Lane, this mid-19th century house was built by John Ensor of Abraham. It remained in the Ensor family until 1947 when it was purchased by John B. Merryman, who now lives on the adjoining property, Orebanks (q.v.) This is the sturdy dwelling of a prosperous farmer and incorporates some Greek Revival detailing into its traditional design. The name derives from the nearby stream which was traditionally a watering place for buffalo.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Buffalo Run

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Belfast Road near Wheeler Lane

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Michael E. Yaggy

Telephone #: 771-4473

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Belfast Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21152

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5269

Folio #: 513

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

D 7-52

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

---

Buffalo Run is a three storey structure of stone, five bays in length, its principal facade to the south. A two storey kitchen wing extends to the north, its east wall slightly west of the main house's east wall. Its shed roof is perpendicular to the main house and it extends east of the wing to shelter a two storey porch in the angle formed by the main house and the kitchen wing, accessible from doors in each storey adjacent to the main house. Flush chimneys of brick rise above each gable of the main house and a flush chimney of brick rises centered above the north wall of the wing. The gabled roof of the main house rises above a wide plain cornice with architrave and frieze all suggesting a Greek Doric order; there are no rake overhangs.

Buffalo Run, in its entirety, dates from 1845-55.

A three bay one storey hipped roof porch with square columns and jig-sawn brackets shelters the front door centered on the south front. The former double doors have been replaced with a new single door with six panels; a transom extends above the door and its flanking sidelights, the whole embellished with wide trim suggesting pilasters and frieze. The triple motif of door and sidelights is restated in the second and third storeys by a tripartite window; in the second storey it is a 6/6 window flanked by 2/2 windows, in the third storey a 3/3 flanked by 1/1's.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES    Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT    Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located at the end of a long driveway north of Belfast Road near Wheeler Lane, this mid-nineteenth century house was built by John Ensor of Abraham. It remained in the Ensor family until 1947 when it was purchased by John B. Merryman, who now lives on the adjoining property, Orebanks (q.v.). This is the sturdy dwelling of a prosperous farmer and incorporates some Greek-revival detailing into its traditional design. The name derives from the nearby stream which was traditionally a watering place for buffalo.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1876, 1896.

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland.  
(Baltimore, 1850).

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catharine R. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 continued

Correspondingly second storey windows are 6/6 while those of the third storey are 3/3; first storey windows are also 6/6 but are slightly taller and all windows except the tripartites are flanked with louvred blinds; the tripartites had them as evidenced by hinges remaining in the frames. The lintels of first and second storey windows are capped with a small dentiled cornice.

Rear and wing windows have plain wooden lintels and the blinds are missing.

Internally a central hall is flanked by a single room on each side and the kitchen wing is a single room now but formerly there was a small hall, a back stair and pantry adjacent to the main house. The principal stair rises in the center hall, with intermediate landings, to the third floor; the oval walnut rail is supported by a large turned walnut newel and round tapered balusters; step ends are scrolled. Doors and windows in the hall and westerly room of the first storey are trimmed with arched-paneled pilasters supporting a cornice. The arched panels are embellished with a carved single interlacement band and the window recesses extend to the floor. In the easterly room architraves are of plain beaded material supporting a plain frieze and cornice. Mantels consist of plain thick pilasters supporting an equally plain and thick frieze, bedmoulding and shelf. A former fireplace for cooking in the kitchen has been closed.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 continued

All floors have the same basic plan; the ceiling of the third floor is formed by roof collar beams.

In the cellar, which extends only under the kitchen wing and adjacent easterly room of the main house, the straight-sawn first floor joists are exposed.

A one and one-half storey spring house stands northeast of the house; the roof cantilevers out over the south gable to shelter a doorway (and probably a former wooden exterior staircase) to the upper floor, which was probably used as a smokehouse.

31-23

Buffalo Run  
Valleys Historical District

Continuation Sheet #3

Question #9 continued

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).





BA-83

BUFFALO RUN

Jim Wellon  
1978

